

paper was one amongst the most pitiable of the number. Children in prison! Babies almost, condemned felons! . . .

"Waving boughs and golden light always touched and quieted me, and spoke to me, and told me about God," she says. The pulpit fretted her. These 'touched and quieted' her with a peace which the hauntings of that sermon had not power wholly to break.

" . . . It is the power of simple faith in Jesus which casts out all Pagan notions of deity, and banishes darkness, and lies, and hauntings, and teaches the heart to say fearlessly and nothing doubting, 'Oh, God, my own Father.' . . .

"Little children and the God and Father of Jesus can live together as they live with their earthly father and their little neighbour. It is not *His* God that makes such havoc of the fairest hopes and joys of childhood, as did that to which Frances Ridley Havergal awoke when she was not yet in her sixth year."

VERA.—"From a Mother's Note Book."

OUR WORK.

The House of Education has begun work, but we have not students enough to meet the applications for "Tante" in December, 1892. Are there no other earnest-minded, cultivated young women prepared to join us immediately? We can promise them remunerative and infinitely useful careers.

The *Parents' Review* School is always open to new pupils; so are the Bücherbund and the Fésole Club.

Will all of our readers who desire to give away the volume of the *Parents' Review* for March, 1891—1892, order at once of the publishers? We earnestly beg our readers not to relax their efforts to get new subscribers.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

As you know so much what is right and good about education, I wish you would tell me what is the usual rule about schoolboys' evening meal in sensible families. My husband has a mania for having the children down from the earliest years to late dinner. He was brought up in the scrambling style of an Irish family, where the children were *en evidence* from morning till night. I do not think the practice is healthy, either morally or physically. I have now two boys, thirteen and fourteen, who regularly dine late, but I cannot think it a good thing for them to be eating rich food, being encouraged in pertness and forwardness, allowed to monopolise the conversation, and hearing a great deal of gossip that is not meant for children, which must naturally be the case when we have a large party of visitors, as we do through nearly the whole of the summer holidays and at Christmas. As I never allow my girls to be alone without either their own or a holiday governess, there is always schoolroom supper, and it seems to me that is the fitting place for such young boys. I wish you would tell me what is usually done in large households where there is a good deal going on in holiday times.

[We shall be glad to have this question discussed.—ED.]

My object in troubling you with this letter is to ask you or one of your contributors to say something on the subject of Bible reading. I have a preparatory school here of some forty-five boys between nine and fourteen, and am most anxious to instil a habit of regular and definite Bible reading among them all. At present most of them belong to the Boys' Scripture Union, but I must confess that I am not altogether satisfied with the portions selected, nor with the daily notes upon them in our Boys' Magazine. I have been wondering, therefore, if you and others of the P.N.E.U. could help me with suggestions on the subject, or whether we could get a good committee formed to draw up a list of passages which should last, say, for two years, and add to them short practical notes on each daily portion. Perhaps you might think well to put some query or suggestion bearing on the subject in your February issue if you have still space for it, and we should then see how the idea was received.

H. B.

A Smyrna rug for a baby to lie upon.

When one of my friends asked, "What shall I make for your baby?" a happy inspiration prompted me to say, "A Smyrna rug to kick upon." Having found the rug most useful I thought it my duty to report it to other mothers. The rug is 36 inches square, has a cream-coloured centre, and a

broad red border. It cost about fourteen shillings. The wools and needles, &c., are to be got from any good wool-shop. Lefevre, at Canterbury, will supply them. The baby is now nine months old, and spends hours in every day upon her rug, which is firm enough for the muscles to get good exercise upon, and yet soft enough to prevent her from getting any bumps. She has a pillow behind her, so that she can sit up, or lie back just as she likes best. Since the winter began she has worn long stockings up to her thighs (and little crocheted slippers which look very pretty), so that she never gets cold, however much she may flourish her legs in the air. I think she is, muscularly, the strongest baby I ever saw, and I put it down to the hours of active exercise she takes, quite undisturbed, on her rug.

PRIZES.

Mrs. Wentworth-Powell offers a prize of *One Guinea* for an Essay (2,000 words) on the best way of teaching children "Concentration of Purpose."

The Essays should reach the Editor by the 10th of March.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

PARENTS' EDUCATIONAL UNION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—*President*, the Most Rev. the Primate. *Vice-Presidents*, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Newcastle; the Rev. Dr. Steel; the Hon. J. P. Abbott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Goodlet. *Council*, the Rev. A. R. Bartlett, M.A.; Mrs. S. C. Brown; R. Chadwick, Esq., and Mrs. Chadwick; Rev. J. W. Debenham, M.A.; Mrs. J. C. Ellis; the Rev. J. Fordyce, M.A.; Mrs. Neville Griffiths; F. I. W. Harrison, Esq.; the Rev. H. L. Jackson, M.A., and Mrs. Jackson; the Rev. J. D. Langley and Mrs. Langley; the Rev. Walter Mathison, B.A.; the Rev. T. E. Owens Mell; the Rev. C. J. Prescott, B.A.; T. P. Reeve, Esq.; Mrs. G. E. C. Stiles; A. B. Weigall, Esq., M.A., and Mrs. Weigall.

N.B.—Communications to be addressed, for the present, to Rev. H. L. Jackson, M.A., St. James' Parsonage, Sydney.

RULES AND PRINCIPLES.

- 1.—The Society shall be called "The Parents' Educational Union of New South Wales."
- 2.—The Central Principles, to which all Local Branches joining the Society shall pledge themselves, shall be:—
 - (1) That a religious basis of work be maintained.
 - (2) That addresses and other means be employed by the Union so as to deal with Education under the following heads: Physical, Mental, Moral, and Religious.
 - (3) That arrangements concerning Lectures, &c., be made with a view to the convenience of fathers as well as of mothers.
 - (4) That the work of the Union be arranged so as to help parents of all classes.
- 3.—That the objects of the Society shall be:—
 - (1) To assist parents to understand the best principles and methods of Education in all its aspects, and especially in those which concern the formation of habits and character.
 - (2) To create a better public opinion on the subject of the training of children, and, with this object, to collect and make known the best information and experience on the subject.
 - (3) To afford to parents opportunities for co-operation and consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be made profitable for all.
 - (4) To stimulate their enthusiasm through the sympathy of numbers acting together.
 - (5) To secure greater unity and continuity of Education by harmonising home and school training.